

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A CCTV CAMERA SYSTEM AND WALL PAINTING AT
BATTLE PRIMARY ACADEMY, CRANBURY ROAD, READING, RG30 2TD

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT



A view of the school from Cranbury Road

Introduction

Battle Primary Academy is a school with approximately 440 pupils located in Reading between Cranbury Road and Kensington Road. The site comprises the two main original primary and upper school buildings, with further buildings which were originally the caretakers house, cookery school and manual instruction block, all set within the original boundary walls and railings. Various more modern extensions have been added over the years.

In recent times the school, its staff and pupils have suffered incidents that have convinced the Head Teacher of the need for a CCTV system to be installed to improve security and safeguarding, comprising 12 cameras to be installed around the school site.

There are also three external walls of the school that have been rendered at an unknown time, most likely to cover over damaged sections of original brickwork. The school would like to paint these areas.

Site Background & Historic Context

The school was built between 1891 – 1893 by local firm Higgs & Son of Reading, to plans from architect Spencer Slingsby Stallwood in a Queen Anne Revival style and as such represents a good example of a second generation Victorian board school of the 1890's. The former manual instruction block was added in 1897 and the school was used as Reading War Hospital No.2 in the First World War, with various small extensions and modifications made over the years. The school was given grade 2 listed status in 2010 in recognition of the architectural quality of the design, its completeness and presence of original features such as the railings and the range of ancillary buildings.

Proposal

CCTV

Over recent times the school has seen incidents of anti-social behaviour including –

- drinks cans thrown through open classroom windows
- glass bottles thrown over the railings and smashed on the playground
- syringes discarded through the railings
- rocks thrown at classroom windows
- 3 staff bicycles and 1 pupil bicycle stolen

As with any school, when children are playing in the playground, there can be incidents and accidents. At this time we sometimes only have 1 persons word against another, but with CCTV we could have a recording of events that happen.

The safety, security and safeguarding of children, staff and visitors on site is the most important aspect of school facilities and infrastructure. Generally security around the school is good, with railings and locked gates around the perimeter and a further block to intrusion into school buildings through door security features. However there are times at the start and end of the school day when gates and doors are open with free access to the grounds for parents and visitors. At these times we have seen incidents where parents have had disagreements with other parents, and are potentially vulnerable to intrusion by others. While incidents are rare, we are also always aware of “stranger danger” to young children in the streets around the school.

It is felt that the presence of CCTV cameras will discourage such behaviour and will give us greater capability to identify participants with proof of events. Therefore it is proposed to install a CCTV system with 12 cameras, linked by network cabling back to a monitoring and recording system.

Wall Painting

Three small areas of the school buildings external walls have been covered in a render-type finish over the years. These have been left as a bare unpainted surface, are not finished in a cosmetically appealing way and are now looking tired and in one case has been affected by pupils marking the surface. We propose to paint the surfaces in a more desirable finish while remaining sympathetic to the buildings and their surroundings.

Design

CCTV

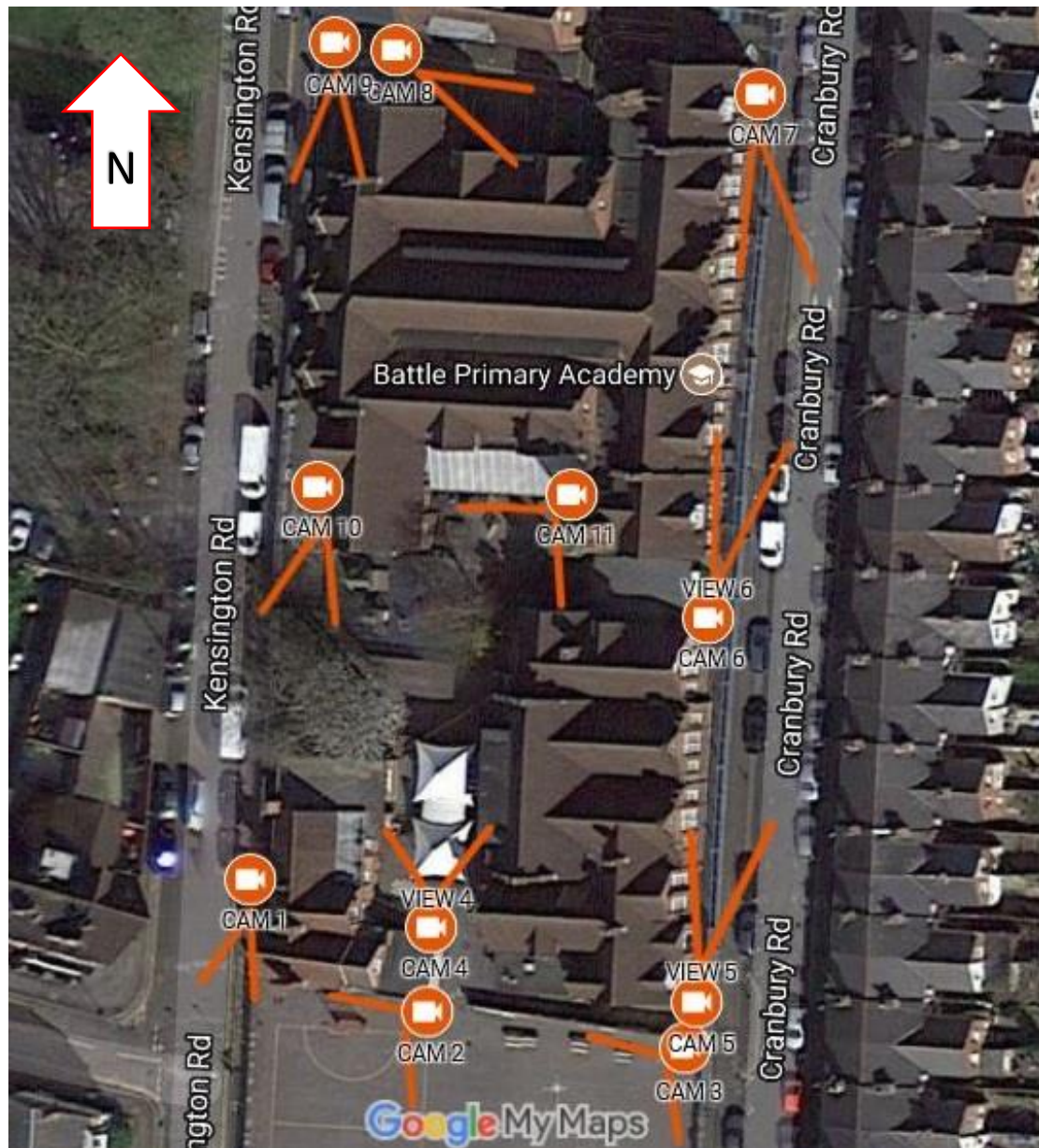
The proposed installation consists of 11 external cameras and 1 internal camera. The cameras specified are designed to give optimum performance and coverage in the areas being monitored. The cameras will feed back signals via CAT5e network cable to the network infrastructure already in place in the school, back to a Network Video Recorder for storage and playback if necessary. External cameras will cover sections of school grounds that include doors, the car park, playground and other specific points where incidents have occurred. The internal camera will be based in the reception area to improve security for the duty staff dealing with visitors. This is the only camera that will also be audio enabled to record sound and provide proof of interactions between staff and visitors.

Each camera will be a HIK Vision DS-2CD2355FWD-I vandal-resistant infra-red capable 5MP dome camera with a 2.8mm lens, mounted on an arm bracket from the wall. This model is available in white, dark grey or black. The school is able to use any of these colours if requested as part of the consent, we have been advised that the only difference may be the lead-time taken to order the units by the contractor. A picture of the camera and its datasheet are included as supplementary documentation with the application for consent. Camera fixings and cable routes will be made through mortar rather than brick where possible. Some cabling may be visible but exact camera positioning will be done with minimising cable routes and external visual impact in mind.

How images and recordings are viewed and stored will be set out in a policy document that will be approved by the school governing body. It is planned that certain members of staff will have individual log in accounts with permissions set to the job functions set out in the policy and will follow steps laid out in the policy regarding who views images, how images are stored, for how long and how any copies that may be made for evidential purposes are treated. To comply with GDPR data protection regulations the school will carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment to assess the personal data risks involved with a CCTV system. None of the cameras will monitor sensitive areas such as classrooms, medical rooms or internal toilet areas.

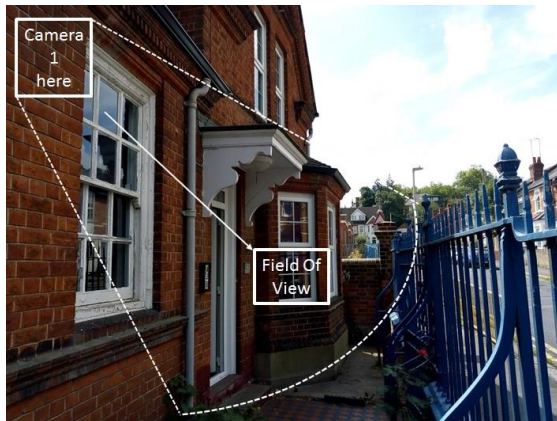
The operator of a CCTV system must warn anybody who may be recorded on the system that they may be under surveillance, and give them the operators contact details in case of enquiry or complaint. Warning signs are also a helpful reminder to people when one of the aims of the installation is to encourage good behaviour around the school. The school plans to install 7 warning notices at entrance gates to comply with this requirement, the size, design and placement of which are flexible if requested as part of the consent but the school is planning using the following signs in A4 size (210mm x 297mm) and made of 1.2mm thick weatherproof rigid plastic. These will be screwed to the external wall in the most appropriate place to be seen from each entrance gate, using plastic plugs and corrosion resistant screws. Where possible the screws will be fixed into mortar rather than brick. A similar smaller sign will be placed inside the reception area for the internal camera.

The camera locations are shown on the following aerial photo of the site, showing North -

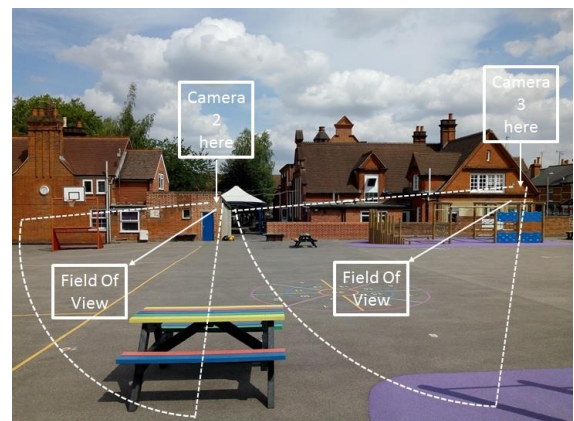


Each camera position is marked on the following photos –

Camera 1



Camera 2 & 3



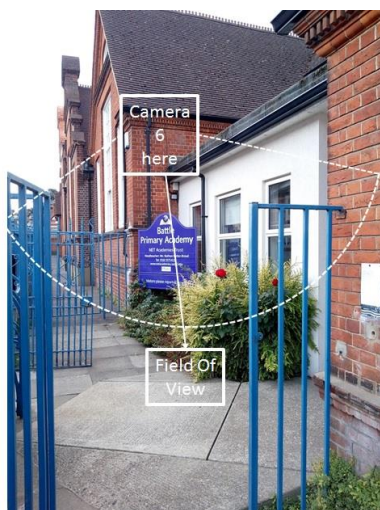
Camera 4



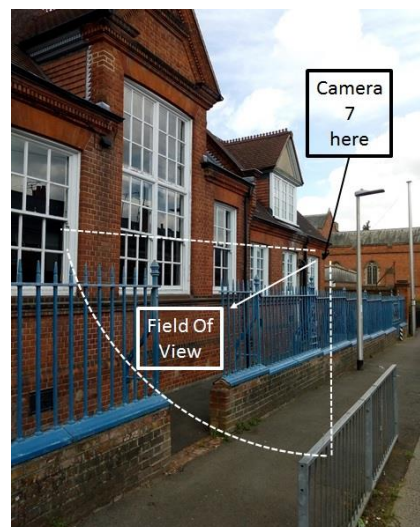
Camera 5



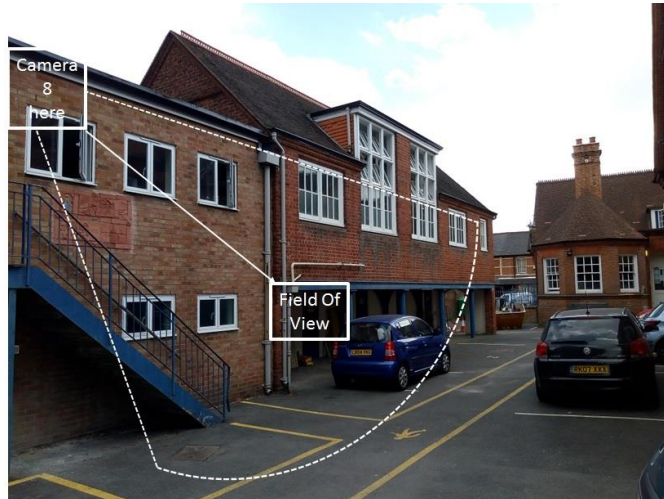
Camera 6



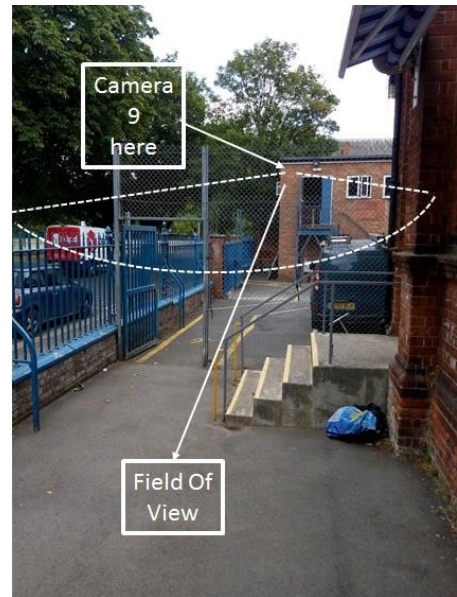
Camera 7



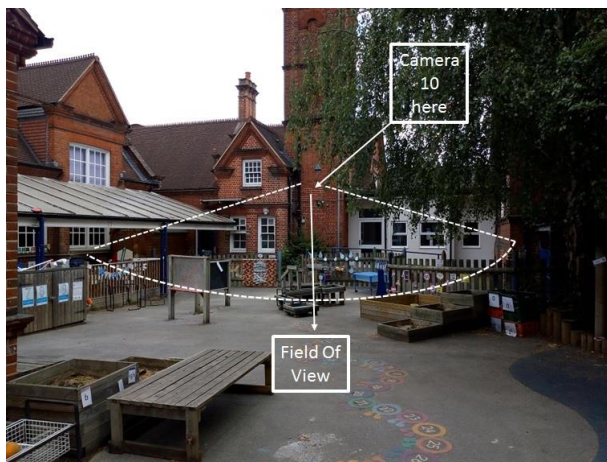
Camera 8



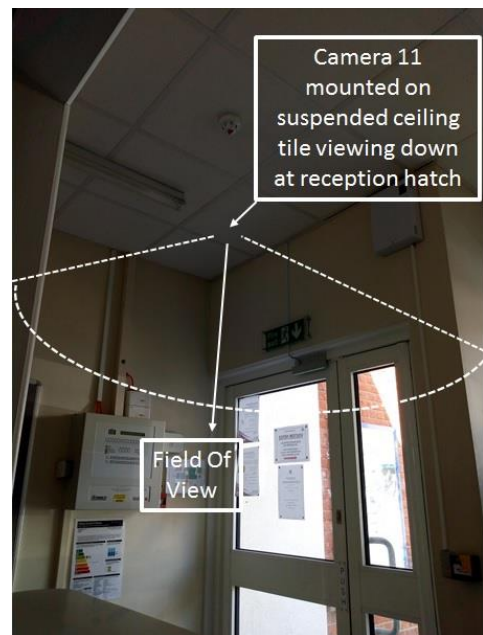
Camera 9



Camera 10



Camera 11



Wall Painting

The following photos show the rendered walls that have been left bare and unpainted. The school would like to clean the surfaces, spot repair any damaged areas and paint with Dulux Weathershield masonry paint. The colour chosen would be close to the current to remain sympathetic to the current surroundings and not significantly alter the appearance of the school buildings from the street.



No change is being made to the amount, layout, scale, use or accessibility of the buildings or site. Any affect to the appearance of the buildings by the cameras can be mitigated by choosing positions that reduce the amount of visible cabling and with the choice of camera colour. The appearance of the school should be enhanced by cleaning and refinishing the rendered walls while not significantly changing the colour.